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ASSASSIN'S CREED

MAY '16
COVER A



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ASSASSIN'S CREED®

+

SETTING SUN

With more than just the Templars now on their tail, the splintered Assassin cell is desperate to regroup. But with Galina calling the shots, Charlotte is put in a position that makes her question just what she's got herself into...

And with the memories of her ancestor Quila proving more and more tantalizing, will she be able to follow orders and be a real member of the team?

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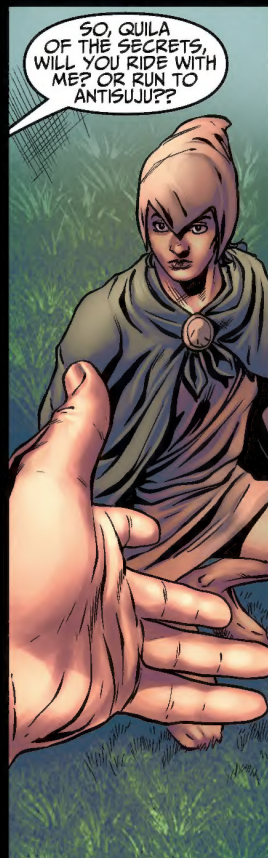
Inca Empire, 1536.





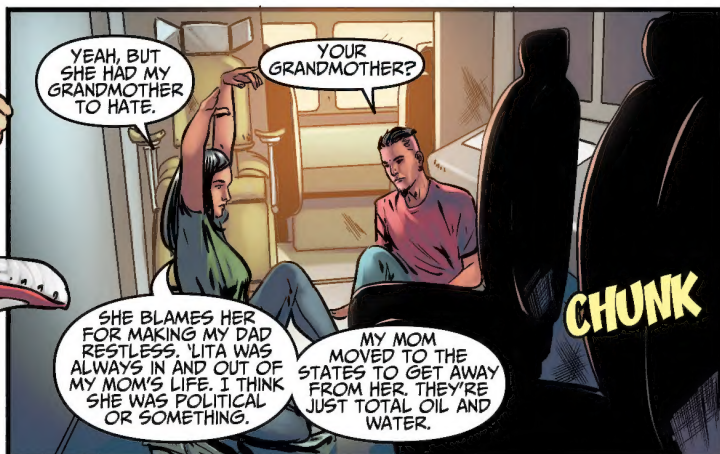


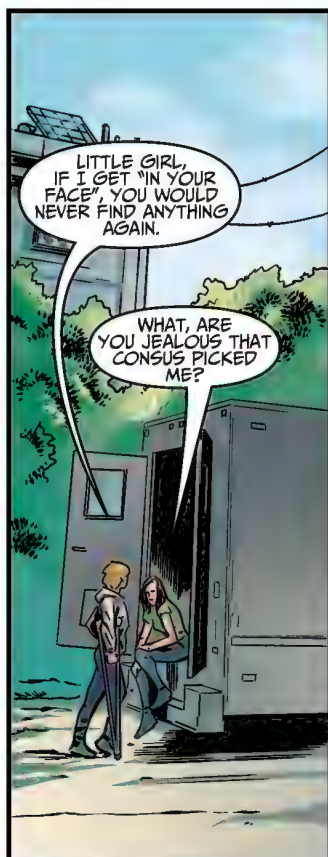


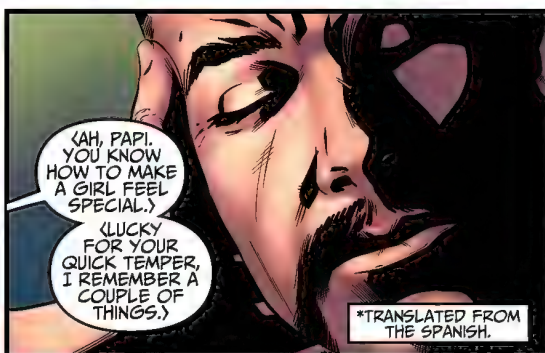
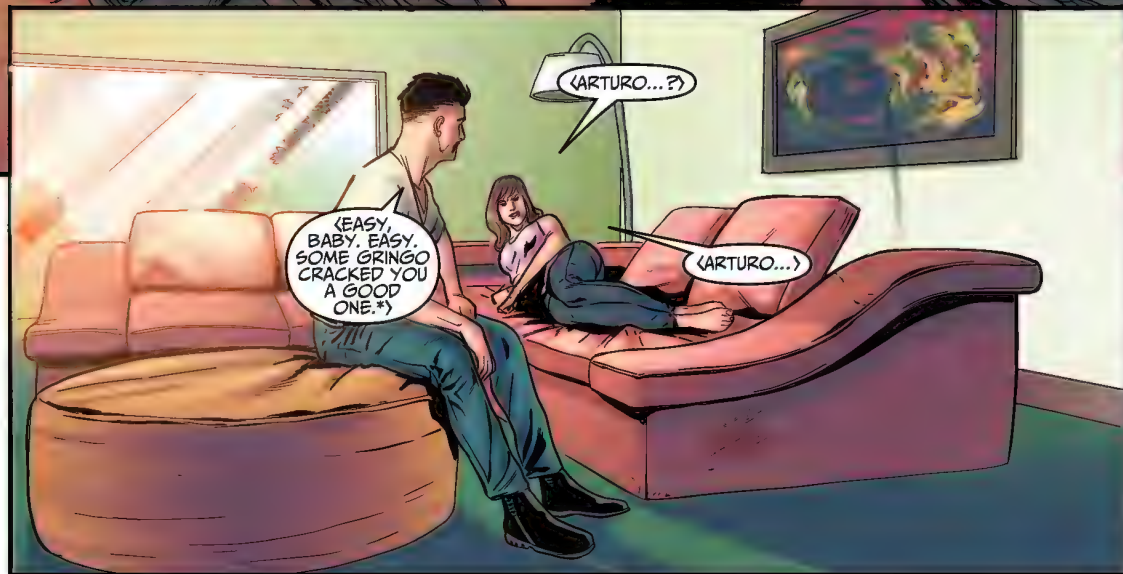












<WE'RE
LOOKING FOR TWO
WOMEN AND A MAN. THE
BRUNETTE'S GOT HALF
HER HEAD SHAVED, SHE
SPEAKS SPANISH,
BUT WITH A YANKEE
ACCENT.>

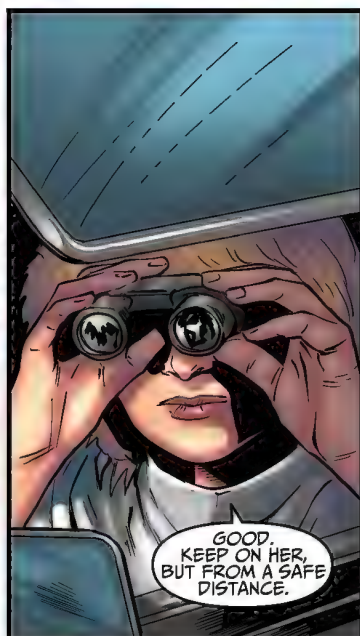
<THE
BLONDE'S LEG IS
BROKEN. SHE'LL
NEED CRUTCHES
TO MOVE
AROUND.>

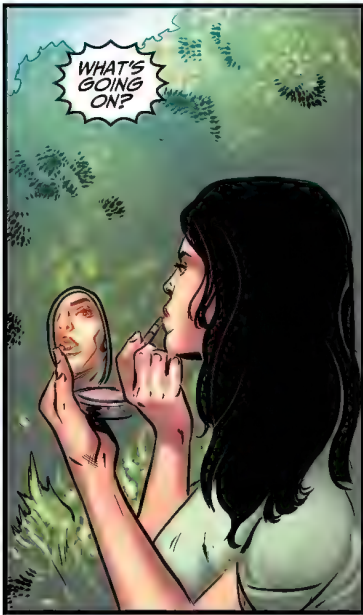
<THE
LAST ONE'S
SOME EMO KID --
FACIAL PIERCINGS,
OBNOXIOUS
FAUX-HAWK.>

<THERE WAS
A GREY VAN PARKED
OUTSIDE THE ROOM.
GRINGO PLATES.
IT'S THEIRS.>



Chapultepec Park - the "Garden of Mexico City".







SHE'S MAKING
A BREAK FOR IT!
SHE'S HEADING
FOR THE NORTH
WEST EXIT. WE'RE
GOING TO LOSE
HER!



I SEE
HER. I CAN
GET HER!

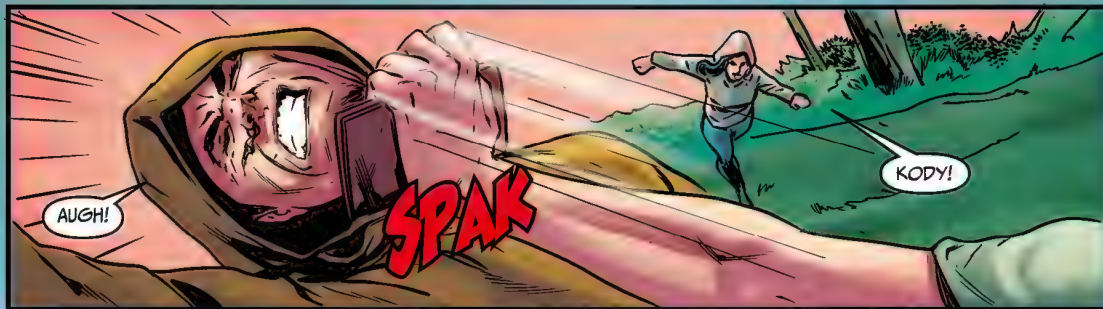
KODY,
NO! I'M NOT
READY.



I'LL GET
HER TALKING OR
SOMETHING.



EXCUSE ME,
SEÑORITA?



AUGH!

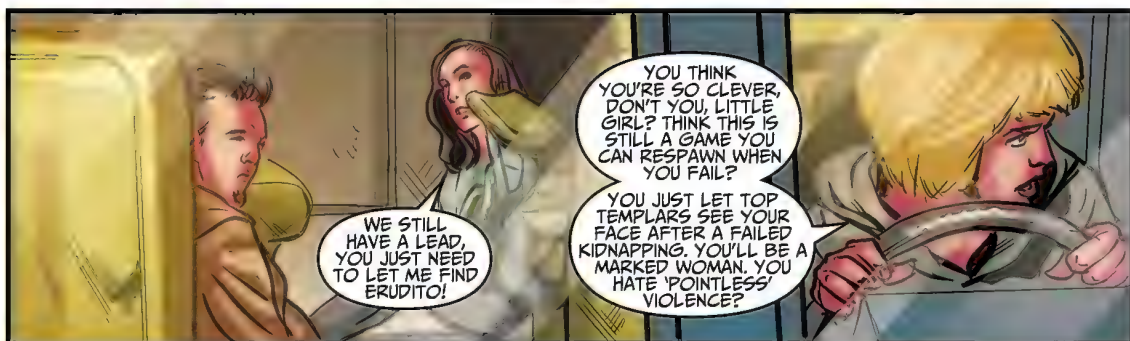
KODY!

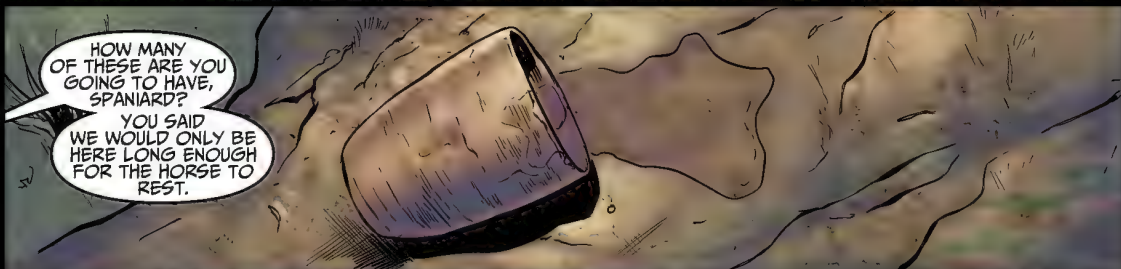
SPAK



AAAAH!
AAAAH!

PSSSST



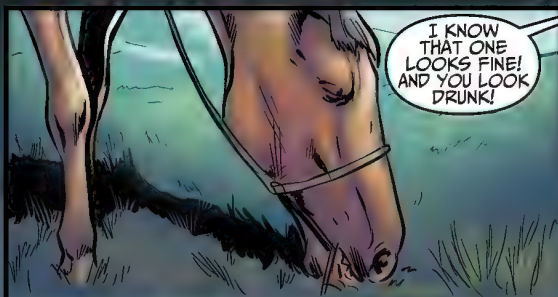


HOW MANY
OF THESE ARE YOU
GOING TO HAVE,
SPANIARD?
YOU SAID
WE WOULD ONLY BE
HERE LONG ENOUGH
FOR THE HORSE TO
REST.



THAT WAS
TWO HOURS
AGO!

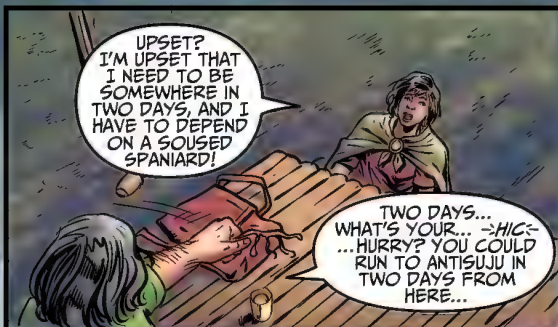
YOU KNOW
NOTHING...
~HIC~... ABOUT
HORSES.



I KNOW
THAT ONE
LOOKS FINE!
AND YOU LOOK
DRUNK!



SO, I LIKE TO RELAX
FROM TIME TO TIME
AND WET MY WHISTLE?
THAT'S... ~HIC~... NO
REASON TO BE
UPSET.



UPSET?
I'M UPSET THAT
I NEED TO BE
SOMEWHERE IN
TWO DAYS, AND I
HAVE TO DEPEND
ON A SOUSED
SPANIARD!

TWO DAYS...
WHAT'S YOUR... ~HIC~...
...HURRY? YOU COULD
RUN TO ANTISUJU IN
TWO DAYS FROM
HERE...

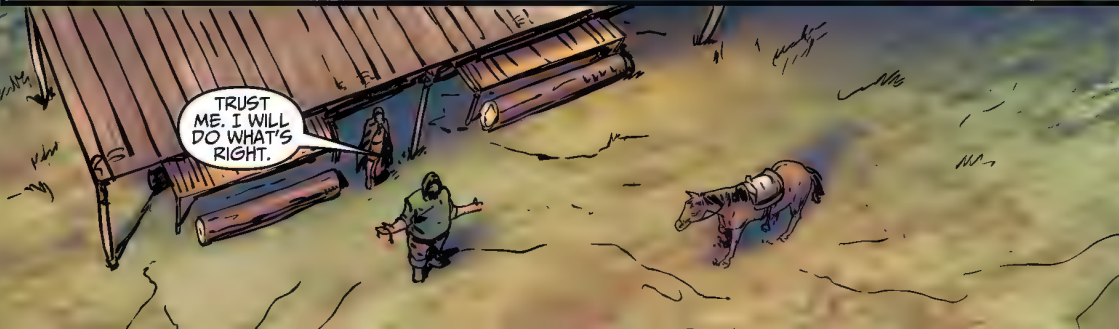
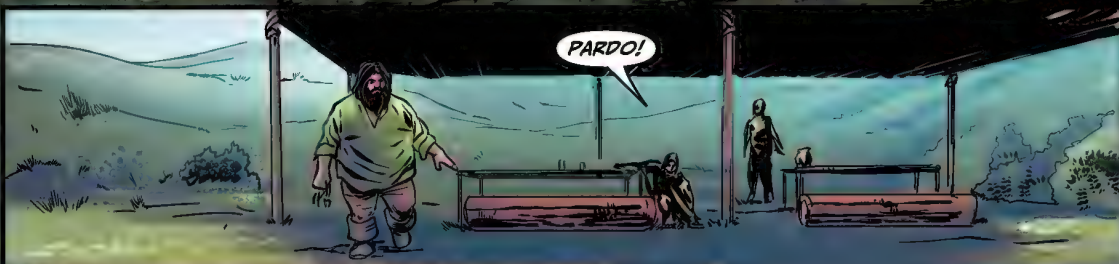
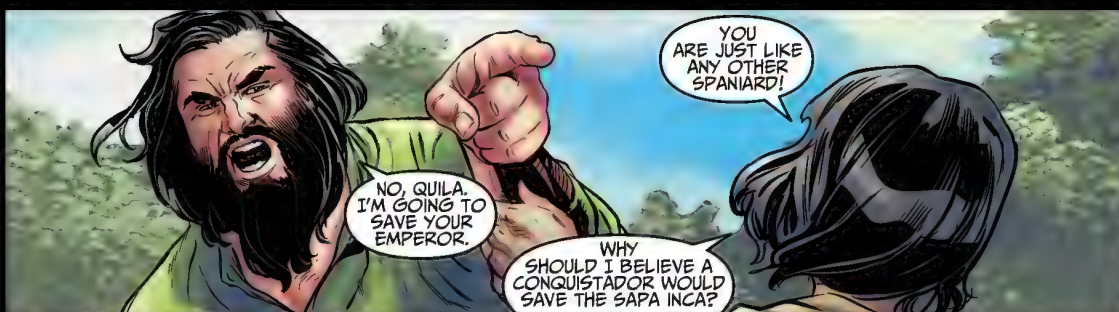
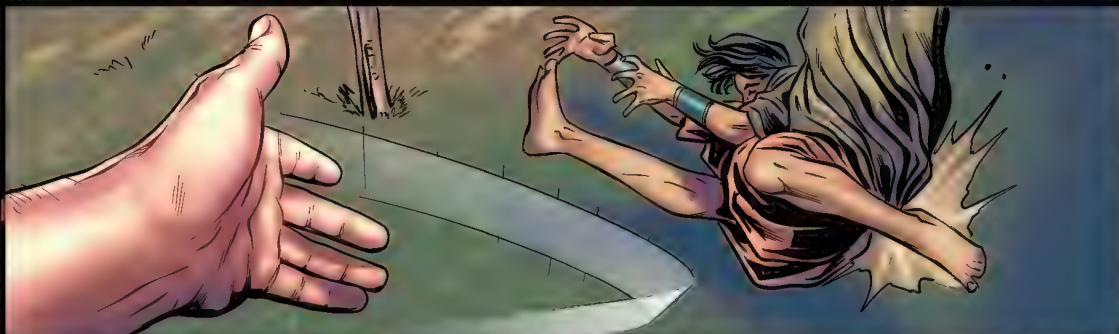
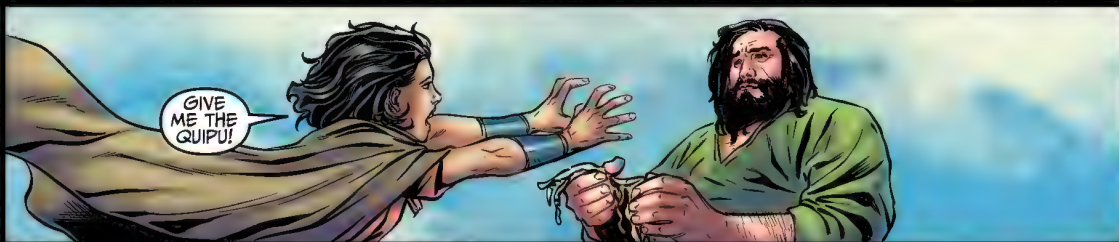


HEY!
THAT'S
MINE!

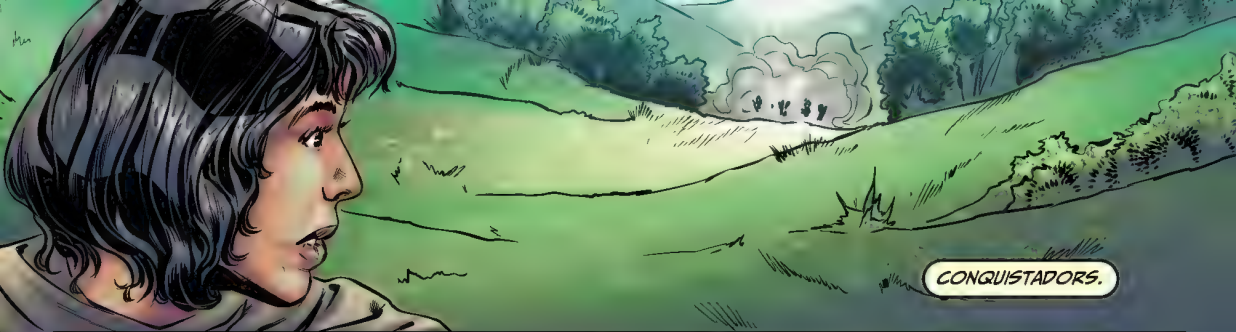


"WHEN
MANCA IS DEAD,
ALL ACCOUNTS
WILL BE SETTLED."
THE EMPEROR...?
MURDER...?

GIVE
IT HERE,
YOU FAT
LLAMA!







CONQUISTADORS.



PLEASE,
BROTHER. STAY.
HELP ME.



THIS
MESSAGE...
THE FATE OF THE
INCA RELIES
ON IT.

THRUM
THRUM
THRUM



NGGGG!

THANK
YOU... THANK
YOU...

THRUM
THRUM
THRUM



ALMOST...
ALMOST....

THRUM
THRUM
THRUM







AHHH,
GONZALO PARDO.
IT IS YOU. WHEN
THOSE INCAS TOLD ME
THEY GOT THEIR ASSES
KICKED BY A FAT
DRUNKARD, I DIDN'T
THINK I COULD BE SO
FORTUNATE, BUT
HERE YOU ARE.



DON
SOTO HAS
NEED OF YOUR
SKILLS.

IT'S TIME
TO BREAK THE
SIEGE.



WHAT DO
WE DO WITH THE
MESSAGE? LOOKS
LIKE PARDO
HAD IT.

TAKE IT.
WE'LL GET ONE
OF THE SLAVES
IN CUZCO TO
READ IT.

SPEAKING
OF SLAVES...
TAKE THE GIRL
TOO.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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SETTING SUN

PART 2 OF 5

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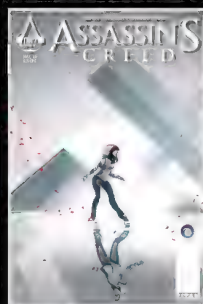
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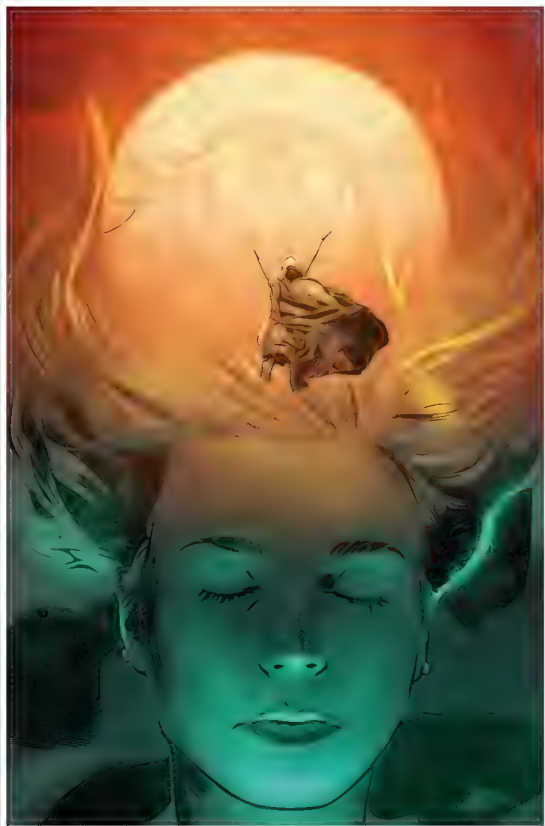
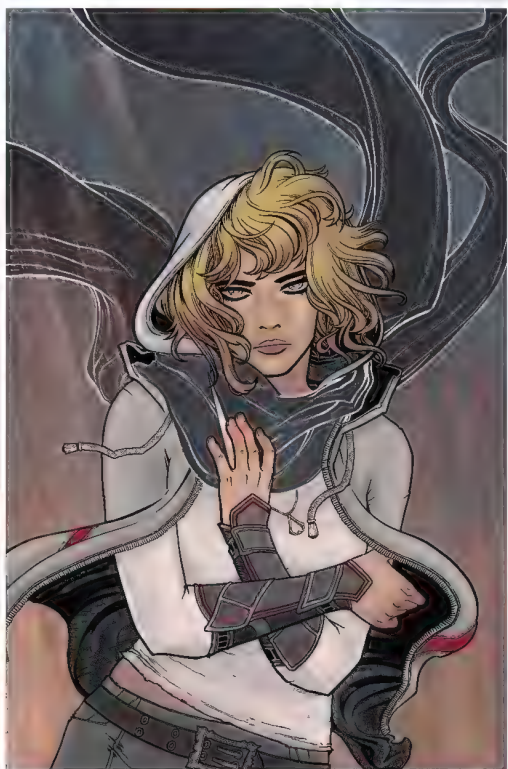


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NEXT — ON SALE JUNE — ISSUE



THINGS FALL APART...

As the fractured Assassin cell splinters even further under the immense pressure they're facing, Charlotte has to make a choice – follow her gut? Or follow Galina? With so much now at stake, how can she know that she's on the right path?

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INCA EMPIRE



THE COMPLEX SOCIETY OF THE "NEW WORLD" THAT
WAS FOUNDED ON EFFICIENT COMMUNICATION...

Quipus, sometimes also called 'talking knots', were the main method of recording data and communication for the tribes of the Andean area of South America. They took the form of strings of knotted cord, with different colored threads and numbers and positions of knots denoting different information. The name comes from the word for 'knot' in Cusco Quechua, which was the native Inca language. They appear to have been most usually made from cotton or camelid fibres (fashioned from the coats of Llamas and Alpacas, and very similar to wool). The threads often resembled a string mop once all gathered together, and a quipu could have just a few, or several hundred, of threads. Evidence suggests that the threads might sometimes be attached

to a carved wooden stick in order to give them more structure, and make them easier for the chasquis to carry.

The quipu remains a mysterious artefact. Very few survived the Spanish conquest, though the earliest known quipus are thought to date from the first millennia AD. They were a crucial part of the success of the Inca Empire, which dominated the Andean region from around 1100 AD until it fell to the Spanish in 1532. It was then that the quipu was replaced by the European writing system, although archaeologists believe that quipus took on a more ritualistic position in society. Many of those that remained were stored in mausoleums alongside those who perished in the Spanish attacks.

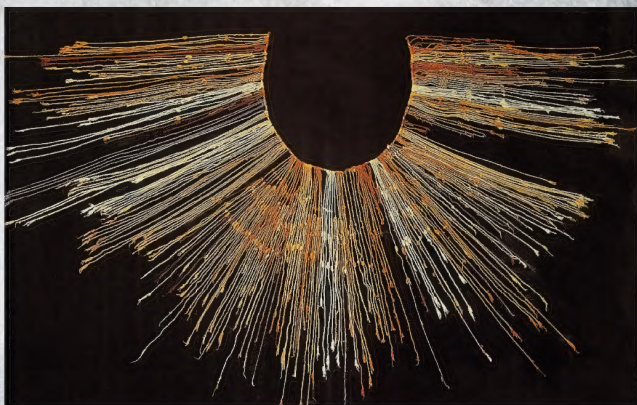


An example of a quipu showing the different uses of colored threads.



The majority of the information relayed in quipus appears to take the form of numbers, recorded in a decimal system. To date, no direct link has been found between the Quechua language and the configuration of the knots and threads on the quipus. There are a number of creditable theories regarding how the information in a quipu can be deciphered, but so far it appears that as a “writing” system, the quipu is unique in being the only known example of a complex language being recorded and transmitted in a three dimensional format.

The “reading” of a quipu relies on understanding the differing configurations of knots. Analysis has already established the numerical links between the three types of knots displayed in quipu, demonstrating the quipu use in accounting systems most effectively. However, it is also suggested that locations and people were recorded using “numbers”, or knots, much like a zip code, but also using different colors of thread or material used to make that thread. Research continues into deciphering exactly how the quipus were able to relay so much information. The surviving quipus, of which there are estimated to be in the region of 700 across the globe, are preserved in the same ways as most delicate of fabrics. While some are now so fragile that touching them would reduce them to dust, others are more robust and can be handled, to better aid the decryption of the messages they hold.



An example of a quipu from the Inca Empire, currently in the Larco Museum Collection.

For the Incans, the quipu were read by *Quipucamayocs*, a specific class of Inca society. They were the accountants and record keepers, and were able to provide the invading Spanish with highly detailed census information about the Empire when it fell. Quipucamayocs were taught the necessary skills along with other high ranking members of the society in the *yacha-huasi* (literally, “house of teaching”) in what was essentially the third year of Inca university. But it was also the *chasqui*, the carriers of the quipu, who could read them, as they would be trusted with vital additional information. It has been suggested that the system of knots and threads used is similar to musical notation, where the basic information is stored, but it is the performance of the reader that brings that information to life. Together, the quipu and chasqui made for one of the most efficient means of pre-industrial communication across large areas.

TO BE CONTINUED...



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